

The Capitol at Nashville.—[From a Photograph]
Harper's Weekly, March 8, 1862.

1100 Fort Negley Blvd. ~ Nashville, TN 37203

615.862.8470

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Fort Negley
Visitors Center 

FORREST'S RAID ON NASHVILLE



The Railroad Bridge over the
Cumberland River



The Siege of Nashville

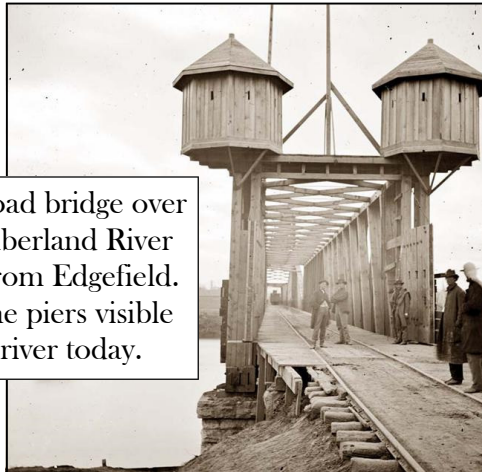
The Confederate siege on Nashville launched during the summer of 1862, successfully isolated the city and necessitated the building of a major system of fortifications. Brigadier General Nathan Bedford Forrest's raid on Nashville on November 5th 1862 came less than nine months after Nashville surrendered to Federal forces. Prior to the raid Nashvillians told Federal officials and soldiers of the attack by an anticipated twenty to fifty thousand Confederates. Confederate forces launched two attacks, but with far fewer soldiers than expected.

The North Side: Edgefield



Confederate
Colonel
John Tyler Morgan

North of Nashville, Confederate Colonel John Tyler Morgan and his guerillas, numbering around 2500, moved down Gallatin Pike around 2 a.m. pushing back the Federal pickets. Morgan's goal was to burn the recently rebuilt bridge over the Cumberland River. Retreating Confederates previously burned the bridge when Federal forces took back the city in February.

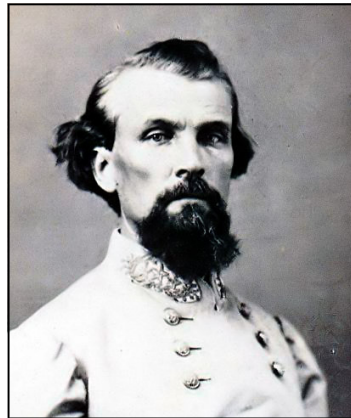


The railroad bridge over the Cumberland River as seen from Edgefield. The stone piers visible in the river today.

At Edgefield, located on the Cumberland River opposite Nashville, Morgan encountered the 16th Illinois led by Colonel Smith and the 60th Illinois who quickly engaged the enemy. The two Federal regiments soon met with fire from more than just Confederate soldiers.

Citizens in Edgefield also opened fire on the soldiers. Federal troops responded by setting fire to two houses which held the locals and firing upon those who exited killing fourteen. The Federals suffered eleven casualties. Morgan, suffering twenty-four casualties, retreated to Gallatin burning only a few rail cars and a Louisville & Nashville railroad building.

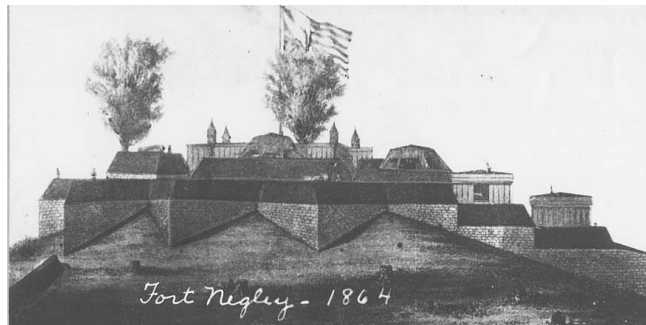
The South Side: Nashville



Confederate
Brigadier General
Nathan Bedford
Forrest

Simultaneous to the events in Edgefield, Brigadier General Nathan Bedford Forrest and 3000 troops engaged Federal pickets between Franklin and Lebanon Pikes.

Federal General James S. Negley pulled back pickets on Murfreesboro Pike forcing Forrest's men within range of Fort Negley's guns. The plan was a success as two shots from the fort's cannon pushed the Confederates back.



Architects Drawing of Fort Negley, 1864

Federal
Brigadier
General
James S.
Negley



Federal Colonel Roberts with the 10th Wisconsin battery and the 1st Brigade of Palmer's division, and two infantry regiments pursued the Confederates down Murfreesboro Pike. An artillery bombardment quickly pushed the attacking Confederates out of town.

General Negley and 1400 soldiers from the 69th Ohio, part of the 78th Pennsylvania, the 14th Michigan, Colonels Stokes' and Wynkoops' cavalries and two artillery sections pursued the enemy down Franklin Pike. The artilleries drove the Confederates seven miles outside of Nashville.

Stokes' cavalry, in heavy pursuit, separated from Negley's command and chased part of the Confederates within five miles of Franklin, killing several and capturing even more.

The rest of Negley's infantry and battery pursued the main cluster of Confederates through John Overton's farm. A great amount of dust made visibility limited for both sides. The Confederates charged an area they believed Stokes' cavalry to be but instead encountered the 14th Michigan and the 78th Pennsylvania. Suffering casualties, Confederates brought forward their artillery but made little progress and soon withdrew.

After nearly eleven hours of fighting Forrest retired to LaVergne suffering fifty casualties. The Federals suffered thirteen casualties including one dead.

The attacks represent the only significant attempt to retake the city made by Confederate forces prior to the Battle of Nashville in December 1864.